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Talking Points for Nancy Beck, Deputy Assistant Administrator  
New Chemicals Review Program Public Meeting  
December 6, 2017

- [Alice Tome from Abt will turn over the mic to you]. Thank you, Alice. Good morning, everyone. I want to take this opportunity to welcome you to today's meeting to discuss progress in implementing changes to the New Chemicals Review Program under amended TSCA and to thank you for taking the time out of your schedules to participate in today's meeting.
- The New Chemicals Review Program plays a tremendously important role in ensuring that new chemicals intended for the U.S. market do not pose unreasonable risks. Efficient reviews also support innovation and ever-improving chemical safety.
- During the first year of implementing the Lautenberg Act amendments to TSCA, EPA worked hard to make the policy and process changes necessary in order to align the program with the requirements of the new law, as well as to streamline and improve the review process.
- We use the analogy that implementing the TSCA amendments is like building a house while you are living in it. Working through the myriad legal and policy issues associated with making affirmative determinations on each case while re-reviewing more than 300 cases which were in the pipeline on June 22, 2016, slowed our progress in reviewing cases. But I am happy to report that the pipeline of cases awaiting completion of our review has diminished substantially, and I think our policy and legal work should ensure that the program has a strong foundation moving forward.

- As we round the 18-month mark of implementing the new law, we want to follow up on our pledge to keep all stakeholders informed of the new policy framework we are operating under, be as transparent as possible about our decision-making, and engage stakeholders.
- The Administrator committed to providing a more predictable and transparent process for making safety determinations, continuous program improvements, and increased transparency. With that in mind, today's Agenda will touch on important elements of the new chemicals review program, including EPA's new chemicals decision-making policy framework and an overview of points to consider before submitting premanufacture notices to the Agency. We will also touch on where we hope to go in the future by discussing a planned decision guidelines manual, and some new chemical categories. Most important, we want to hear about your experience with the program and respond to your comments and questions.
- I am hopeful that today's meeting will provide an honest accounting of the challenges the Agency is working through and continue the dialogue on ways the Agency can continue to improve the program.
- Again, thank you for your participation and your feedback. We value your input and look forward to working together in the year ahead.
- I'll turn it over to Dr. Jeff Morris, Director of the Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics to get us started.